

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
USMISSION NATO
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 080385

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CENTO

SUBJECT: CENTO SECRETARY GENERAL BAYULKEN'S VISIT TO
WASHINGTON MARCH 24-30

1. BAYULKEN, ACCOMPANIED ON HIS THIRD ANNUAL VISIT TO
WASHINGTON BY SPECIAL ASSISTANT METCALFE (UK), MET BRIEFLY
WITH THE SECRETARY AND AT GREATER LENGTH WITH SECRETARY OF
DEFENSE, DEPUTY SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER, COUNSELOR NIMITZ,
AID DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR-DESIGNATE NOOTER, AND NEA DEPUTY
SECRETARY SOBER.

2. U.S. OFFICIALS ASSURED BAYULKEN THAT USG CONTINUES
TO SUPPORT AND VALUE ITS CONNECTION WITH CENTO. THEY
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POINTED OUT SECRETARY'S DESIRE TO ATTEND CENTO MINISTERIAL
IN TEHRAN WHICH RESULTED IN U.S. PROPOSAL TO POSTPONE
MINISTERIAL FROM LATE APRIL TO MID-MAY WHEN SECRETARY
COULD ATTEND. BAYULKEN EXPRESSED HIS CONCERN THAT CENTO
ALLIANCE MAY NOT SURVIVE MORE THAN ONE OR TWO YEARS UN-
LESS ITS MEMBERS, PARTICULARLY U.S. AND U.K., TAKE SOME
INITIATIVE TO REVIVE ITS IMPORTANCE AS AN ELEMENT IN FREE

WORLD SECURITY. HE NOTED THAT THE REGIONAL MEMBERS "HOLD DOWN" 46 SOVIET DIVISIONS AND 2,000 SOVIET AIRCRAFT. HE SAID REGIONALS WERE STILL VERY MUCH PRO-WESTERN, BUT THERE WAS FEELING THAT WEST HAS LOST INTEREST IN THEM.

3. PAKISTAN WAS MAJOR SUBJECT ON SECRETARY-GENERAL'S MIND. IN ALL OF HIS MEETINGS WITH USG OFFICIALS, BAYULKEN PROMOTED PAKISTAN'S DESIRE FOR A-7 AIRCRAFT AND OTHER U.S. MILITARY SUPPLIES AND SPOKE WITH SOME SYMPATHY OF ITS DESIRE TO BUY NUCLEAR REPROCESSING PLANT FROM FRANCE. HE NOTED A CONTINUING THREAT FROM INDIAN RIGHTIST ELEMENTS WHICH WISH TO REINCORPORATE PAKISTAN INTO GREATER INDIAN STATE. HE QUOTED SHAH AS FEARING WAR BETWEEN INDIA AND PAKISTAN IF RIGHT WING ELEMENTS DOMINATE NEW GOVERNMENT IN NEW DELHI. BAYULKEN SAID HE FORMULATING LANGUAGE FOR CENTO POLITICAL GUIDANCE IN WHICH EXISTING U.S. AND U.K. COMMITMENTS TO SECURITY OF UNITED NATIONS MEMBERS COULD BE REFUNNELED THROUGH CENTO CONTEXT TO PAKISTAN. THIS WOULD PROVIDE IMPORTANT PSYCHOLOGICAL, IF NOT SUBSTANTIAL, POLITICAL GESTURE TO REGIONAL MEMBER IN MOST NEED OF ONE, HE SAID.

4. BAYULKEN ALSO CONVEYED WHAT HE DESCRIBED AS SHAH'S DISMAY AT CRITICISM FROM U.S. AND WEST OF HIS ATTEMPT TO MODERNIZE HIS ARMED FORCES. BAYULKEN SAID IT INCONSISTENT FOR U.S. TO URGE NATO MEMBERS TO ARM THEMSELVES AND THEN CRITICIZE SHAH FOR DOING SAME. TURKEY IS IN LESS NEED OF REASSURANCE FROM U.S. BECAUSE OF NATO TIE. HOWEVER, HE WARNED THAT PRO-U.S. ELEMENTS IN TURKEY ARE UNDER PRESSURE
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AND URGED THAT U.S. RATIFY DEFENSE COOPERATION AGREEMENT BEFORE TURKISH ELECTIONS ARE HELD.

5. IN ALL OF HIS OFFICIAL CALLS, BAYULKEN SAID HE WAS SATISFIED AND GRATEFUL FOR U.S. SUPPORT OF REGULAR CENTO PROGRAMS. ONLY IN SESSION WITH NOOTER DID HE EXPRESS REGRET, IN PASSING, THAT PAKISTAN PORTION OF CIVILIAN MICROWAVE NETWORK WAS FOUND INELIGIBLE FOR AID SUPPORT, AND THAT USG WAS NOT PROVIDING DOLLARS 5 MILLION GRANT FOR CENTO MILITARY COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM AT THIS TIME. U.S. OFFICIALS CITED CONGRESSIONAL CONSIDERATION AND SUGGESTED BAYULKEN AND REGIONAL MEMBERS TO TRY TO DEVELOP PROPOSALS FOR U.S. MILITARY AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION THAT MEET REQUIREMENTS OF CONGRESSIONAL GUIDELINES AND U.S. BUDGETARY REALITIES. BAYULKEN EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH HIS VISIT AND EMPHASIZED IMPORTANCE TO CENTO OF SECRETARY'S ATTENDANCE AT CENTO MINISTERIAL IN TEHRAN WHICH HE HOPED COULD BE RESCHEDULED FOR MAY 14-15.

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